

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

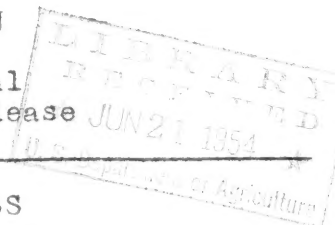


Mimeograph
Paper No. 78

May 1952

GEORGIA COASTAL PLAIN EXPERIMENT STATION
Tifton, Georgia

Information based on results of practical
experiments in agriculture for press release
and distribution to farmers.



TIFFINE (TIFTON 127) TURF BERMUDA GRASS
B.P. Robinson and Glenn W. Burton*

Golf course superintendents have continually searched for a good fine textured Bermuda grass. The establishment of experimental turf plots at the Georgia Coastal Plain Experimental Station in 1947 marked the first milestone for the selection, breeding, and testing of Bermuda grass types for turf purposes. During this time over 136 types of Bermuda grasses have been tested under both golf green fairway management. By 1949 and 1950 it was evident that a hybrid Bermuda, Tiflawn (Tifton 57 Bermuda grass) produced at the experiment station, was superior to common seeded Bermuda grass and several selections from golf courses in the Southeast. Tiflawn, however, still fell short of the exacting requirements of the golfers for a very fine textured Bermuda. In an effort, therefore, to produce a finer textured Bermuda while still retaining desirable qualities, Tiflawn, Cynodon dactylon, and several other selections of common Bermuda were hybridized with a very fine-leaved disease susceptible Bermuda from South Africa, Cynodon transvaalensis.

Eighty-nine hybrid plants, obtained from the crosses, were planted in the field for observation in 1949. Several of the plants appeared to be inferior turf types and were discarded. The most promising hybrids, however, were planted in the experimental turf plots. Such comparative ratings as disease resistance, sod density, fineness, playing quality, weed resistance, aggressiveness, etc., over the past two years have indicated that the hybrid plant carrying the number 127 is a superior turf type. This Bermuda produced by crossing Tiflawn with South African Bermuda grass has become known as Tifton 127 Bermuda--Tiffine. Since it does not produce viable seed, it must be propagated vegetatively.

Tiffine has a distinctive medium green color, is aggressive, disease resistant, not injured by overseeding with ryegrass, and is much finer in texture than Tiflawn, common seeded Bermuda, or most other types of Bermuda grass used on putting greens. Commercial sources are available. Observations to date indicate that Tiffine is well adapted throughout the Southeast. It is being grown satisfactorily on new greens in the coastal area and as far north as the Ohio River Valley.

Although Tiffine is a great improvement over common Bermuda for putting greens, the Bermuda grass breeding work is being continued in the hope that even better Bermuda may be found.

*Turf Specialist and Principal Geneticist, Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Georgia

